

Message Text

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: REPORT OF AD HOC GROUP MEETING
OF NOVEMBER 25, 1974

BEGIN SUMMARY:

1. IN ITS NOVEMBER 25 MEETING, THE AD HOC GROUP
(AHG) DISCUSSED THE DRAFT OF ITS REPORT TO THE NAC
ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS
(SEPTEL), APPROVED TALKING POINTS FOR THE NOVEMBER
26 INFORMAL SESSION AND HEARD REPORT OF A BILATERAL
WITH POLISH REP (STRULAK), WHO INDICATED SOME FLEXI-
BILITY ON TREATMENT OF AIR AND NUCLEAR FORCES, BUT SAID
THEY MUST BE TREATED IN SOME RESPECT. THE GROUP ALSO
TENTATIVELY AGREED, SUBJECT TO EASTERN CONCURRENCE,

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THAT THE CHRISTMAS RECESS SHOULD RUN UNTIL JAN 27,

WITH THE AHG TO RECONVENE JAN 23 AND THE FIRST PLENARY OF THE NEXT ROUND TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 30. AHG REPORT TO THE NAC IS TO RECEIVE A FINAL REVIEW BY THE GROUP ON THE MORNING OF NOVEMBER 28 AND THEN IS TO BE SENT TO BRUSSELS BY CABLE LATER THAT DAY. END SUMMARY.

2. POLISH/NETHERLANDS BILATERAL: NETHERLANDS REP (DEVOS) REPORTED NOV 25 BILATERAL WITH THE POLISH REP (STRULAK), WHO HAD INDICATED THAT THE EAST AGAIN WOULD REVIEW THE ADVANTAGES OF THEIR INITIAL STEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL AT THE NOV 26 INFORMAL. STRULAK REPEATED EARLIER EASTERN ASSERTIONS THAT MANY OF THE DETAILS OF THAT PROPOSAL HAD INTENTIONALLY BEEN LEFT VAGUE AND WERE OPEN TO DISCUSSION AND ELABORATION. IN REPLY TO DEVOS' QUESTION, STRULAK SAID SUCH DETAILS INCLUDED THE NUMBER OF REDUCTIONS AND POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH POST-REDUCTION RESIDUAL FORCE LEVELS WOULD BE QUANTIFIED. REPLYING TO ANOTHER QUESTION, STRULAK SAID THE EAST COULD DISCUSS AND PERHAPS ACCOMMODATE THE WISHES OF INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS REGARDING THE BREAKDOWN OF REDUCTIONS BY ARMED SERVICES, BUT THE POLISH REP REPEATED TWICE THAT HE COULD NOT IMAGINE AN AGREEMENT THAT DID NOT INCLUDE AIR AND NUCLEAR FORCES "IN SOME RESPECT," EVEN IF NOT IN THE SAME WAY AS GROUND FORCES. DEVOS CONCLUDED THAT, ON BALANCE, STRULAK WAS NOT READY TO DROP AIR AND NUCLEAR FORCES, BUT COULD ENTERTAIN "SOME VARIATION" OF TREATMENT, PERHAPS EVEN POSTPONEMENT TO A SUBSEQUENT PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

3. TALKING POINTS FOR NOV 26 INFORMAL: THE GROUP DISCUSSED, AND APPROVED WITH SOME EDITORIAL CHANGES, FOUR DRAFT TALKING POINT PAPERS FOR THE NOV 26 INFORMAL SESSION. AFTER BRIEFLY REBUTTING THE EXPECTED EASTERN LEAD-OFF PRESENTATION ON THE INITIAL REDUCTION PROPOSAL, THE FIRST PAPER PRESSED THE EAST AGAIN ON DATA EXCHANGE AND THEN PROCEEDED TO A PRESENTATION OF THE ALLIED NO-INCREASE OF AIR MANPOWER OFFER CONTAINED IN RECENT NAC GUIDANCE TO THE AHG. THE GROUP READILY ACCEPTED THIS PAPER, WITH UK REP (ROSE) NETHERLANDS REP (DE VOS) AND ITALIAN ACTING REP (TALIANI) WITHDRAWING THEIR EARLIER RESERVATIONS TO INTRODUCING THE

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AIR NO-INCREASE OFFER NOV 26. THE GROUP ALSO APPROVED A TALKING POINTS PAPER INTENDED TO RETURN THE DISCUSSION TO DATA, SHOULD THE EAST, AS EXPECTED, INSIST ON RETURNING TO ITS FIRST STEP PROPOSAL.

4. THE GROUP ALSO AGREED ON A PAPER CONTAINING CONTINGENCY RESPONSES TO POSSIBLE EASTERN QUERIES ON THE NO-INCREASE OFFER, AND ANOTHER PAPER DEALING WITH THE CONTINGENCY

THAT THE EAST MIGHT OFFER TO DEFER AIR AND/OR NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS UNTIL A SECOND NEGOTIATION. IN DISCUSSING THE CONTINGENCY TALKING POINTS ON THE NO-INCREASE OFFER, IT WAS AGREED NOT TO ADDRESS ON NOV 26 THE POTENTIAL EASTERN QUESTION REGARDING THE FORM OF A POSSIBLE LIMITATION -- I.E., -- SEPARATE CEILINGS ON GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER. EAST WOULD BE TOLD SUCH QUESTIONS WOULD BE DEALT WITH LATER, WHEN THE SPECIFICS OF ALL SUGGESTED COMMITMENTS WOULD BE DISCUSSED. DESPITE SOME RELUCTANCE OF TALIANI, AHG ALSO ACCEPTED CONTINGENCY WESTERN REPLY THAT AIR NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT "SHOULD LOGICALLY BE OF SAME DURATION" AS GROUND FORCE NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT, WHICH IT WOULD COMPLEMENT. FURTHER CONTINGENCY REPLY STATED THAT "CONTINUING SOME LIMITATION OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN THE SECOND PHASE COULD BE DONE IN VARIOUS WAYS (AND) A NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT IS ONE POSSIBILITY WHICH WE COULD CONSIDERZ FINALLY, REGARDING POSSIBLE EASTERN QUESTION ON LIMITATION OF NUCLEAR AS WELL AS AIR FORCES, GROUP ACCEPTED FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY REPLY: "WE HAVE PROPOSED A LIMIT ON AIR FORCE PERSONNEL, NOT A LIMIT ON ARMAMENTS; HOWEVER, PERSONNEL OF NUCLEAR UNITS ARE INCLUDED IN EITHER GROUND FORCES OR AIR FORCES AND THUS WOULD BE COVERED."

5. CONTINGENCY TALKING POINTS ON POSSIBLE EASTERN OFFER TO DROP AIR/NUCLEAR FORCES BEGAN BY NOTING EASTERN REMARKS AND THEN BY POSING QUESTIONS ON SUCH A PROPOSAL. AFTER ESTABLISHING THAT OFFER TO DROP AIR/NUCLEAR FORCES FROM REDUCTIONS APPLIED ONLY TO FIRST STEP RATHER THAN TO ENTIRE SPAN OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE PAPER REJECTED THAT APPROACH AND PROCEEDED TO AIR NO-INCREASE OFFER.

6. CHRISTMAS RECESS: NOTING THAT SEVERAL DELEGATIONS WOULD NEED TIME FOR EXTENDED CONSULTATIONS IN THEIR CAPITALS OVER THE
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CHRISTMAS BREAK, US REP ENDORSED EARLIER FRG SUGGESTION THAT THE CURRENT ROUND CONCLUDE WITH THE DECEMBER 12 PLENARY AND RESUME IN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 27, WITH THE FIRST PLENARY OF THE NEXT ROUND TENTATIVELY TO TAKE PLACE JANUARY 30. THE AD HOC GROUP WOULD RECONVENE IN VIENNA ON JANUARY 23. THE GROUP AGREED UNANIMOUSLY TO THIS PROPOSAL AND THE BELGIAN REP (ADRIAENSSEN) WAS DELEGATED TO TAKE IT UP WITH STRULAK.RESOR

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